



County of Los Angeles
FIRE DEPARTMENT

# OPERATION EVACUATION



photo by L.A. County Fire Depar

WE have to stay.

YOU don't.

Preparedness is the key.

Do you know how to save your life in case of a wildfire?

When disaster strikes, it is usually without warning. Mobilization of all the human forces required to counteract and respond to the disaster must happen quickly for maximum protection of life and property.

Decisions must be made:

The Los Angeles County Fire Department Incident
Management Teams must decide where to strategically deploy

resources ahead of the fire front, and immediately initiate appropriate evacuation procedures.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department must notify residents in immediate danger and alert them of the need to determine a safe exit, and assist them in doing so.

The California Highway Patrol and the

Los Angeles Police Department must decide what traffic controls to initiate to keep roads accessible to ensure disaster-assisting vehicles can safely deploy; and citizens can safely exit the area.

The Los Angeles County Animal Care & Control Department will be informed of areas presenting the greatest threat and alert its teams to begin strategic assistance for horses and animals in the immediate vicinity of the emergency.

Local Volunteer Disaster Response Teams must mobilize and activate their communications network to provide accurate, local information so residents can make the safest choices possible.

The decision on when to leave is critical. Time spent on home preparation ahead of a wildland fire is important to reduce property loss. Every fire is different. In the path of wind-driven fires, residential evacuations may be ordered. If and when an evacuation is ordered, the Fire Department's desire is for residents to leave immediately. Your life/safety is the Fire Department's primary goal. Quick compliance to an evacuation order is critical.

This brochure is intended to inform/assist each and every resident of the Santa Monica Mountains, its Coastal and Valley regions included, learn how you can help yourself and those trained to help you,

save your life and property. It's your responsibility, as well as that of participating emergency services, to be familiar with the evacuation procedures contained within this pamphlet. Keep it handy. Check it out.







# **EVACUATION PLAN**

# Do you have one?

Emergency preparedness must be a priority for everyone that lives or works in a wildland interface area. A major part of your preparedness is to develop a logical well thought out and executed evacuation plan. A good evacuation plan includes the following:

- ✔ Predetermined routes of travel based on direction fire is moving.
- ✓ Identify at least two (2) exit routes from your neighborhood.
- ✔ Knowledge of designated residential assembly points within your local area (see listing).
- ✓ Knowledge of local emergency contacts.
- ✔ Plan, review, and practice with family and neighbors.

## PREPARATION AHEAD OF THE FIRE

- ✓ Back your car in the garage heading out (windows) closed and keys in the ignition).
- ✔ Close the garage door, leave it unlocked, disconnect the automatic garage door opener in the case of power failure.
- ✔ Place important documents, photo albums, pets and other valuables inside your car in case you have to evacuate.
- ✓ Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times and stay tuned to your local news station.



# **DURING EVACUATION**

- ✔ If you become trapped by fire while evacuating in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or iacket and lie on the floor.
- ✔ If you are trapped by fire while evacuating on foot, select an area clear of vegetation or lie faced down in a

# **EMERGENCY WILDFIRE** HOME PROTECTION

- ✓ Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage.
- ✔ Cover windows, attic openings, eaves and vents with fire resistive material such as 1/2 inch or thicker plywood. Close window shutters and blinds if they are fire resistive.
- ✓ Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so that they can reach all areas of your house.
- ✔ Fill all sinks, bath tubs, trash cans, and buckets. Place portable containers around your house for easy access.
- ✔ If you have an emergency generator or a portable gasoline-powered pump that will supply water from a swimming pool, pond, well or tank, clearly mark its location, test, and be ready to operate it.
- ✔ Place a ladder against the house on the side opposite the approaching fire for access to the roof.
- ✔ Close all windows and doors around your home to prevent sparks from blowing inside.
- Close all doors within the house to slow fire spread inside the house.
- ✓ Turn on the lights in all rooms of your house, on the porch and in the yard. Your home will be more visible through the smoke or darkness.
- ✔ Shut off liquefied petroleum gas or natural gas valves.
- ✔ Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to avoid igniting from the fires radiant heat.
- Remove curtains and drapes. If you have metal blinds or special fire resistant window coverings, close them to block heat radiation.



# IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO EVACUATE WHEN A FIRE APPROACHES

- Stay inside your house away from outside walls.
- Keep all doors closed but leave them unlocked.
- Keep your entire family together and REMAIN CALM. Remember if it gets hot in the house, it is four to five times hotter and more dangerous outside.

# AFTER THE FIRE PASSES

- ✔ Check the exterior and roof immediately, extinguish all sparks and embers. If you must climb on the roof, use caution.
- ✔ Check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.
- Check your yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts or other materials.

# FOR ADDITIONAL FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

Visit us at www.lacofd.org

or contact us

Public Affairs Section (323) 881-2411



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